

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A cordless telephone system, comprising:
2 a base station adapted to function as a slave;
3 a first handset unit adapted to function as a master;
4 a second handset unit adapted to function as a master;
5 said first and second handsets adapted to periodically poll said base station
6 and receive commands responsive to which said first or second handset turns off
7 said polling functionality when an active connection exists between said base station
8 and said other of said first or second handsets.

1 2. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said first or second
2 handset units receive commands responsive to which said first or second handset
3 units reactivate said polling functionality when said active connection is
4 disconnected.

1 3. A system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said first or second
2 handsets receive commands responsive to said polling indicative of a new timing
3 relationship for a next polling.

1 4. A cordless telephone system, comprising:
2 a base station adapted to function as a slave;
3 a first mobile unit adapted to function as a master;
4 a second mobile unit adapted to function as a master;
5 said first and second mobile units adapted to alternately function as a system
6 slave when the other of said first or second mobile units has an active connection
7 with said base station.

1 5. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 4, said first and
2 second mobile units adapted to send polling signals to said base station when
3 functioning as masters.

1 6. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 5, said base
2 station adapted to respond to said polling signals by sending signals directing said
3 first or second mobile units to adjust their poll timing.

1 7. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 6, wherein said
2 alternately functioning as slaves comprises turning off polling functionality while said
3 active connection is ongoing.

1 8. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 7, wherein said
2 base station is adapted to respond to said polling signals by sending signals
3 directing one of said first or second mobile units to turn off said polling functionality..

1 9. A cordless telephone system in accordance with claim 8, wherein a
2 mobile station that has turned off said polling functionality is adapted to turn said
3 polling functionality back on responsive to commands from said other of said first or
4 second mobile units.

1 10. A method in a telecommunications system having a base station and
2 at least first and second mobile units, comprising:
3 sending polling signals to said base station from said first and second mobile
4 units; and
5 receiving at said first or second mobile units one or more signals directing
6 said first or second mobile units to adjust a timing of said sending polling signals.

1 11. A method in accordance with claim 10, further comprising receiving at
2 one of said first or second mobile units a signal from said base station responsive to
3 polling directing said mobile unit to turn off polling functionality during an active
4 connection between said base station and the other of said first or second mobile
5 units.

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1 12. A method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising said one
2 turning said polling functionality back on responsive to a signal from said other of

3 said first or second mobile units.

1 13. A method, comprising:
2 providing a base station adapted to function as a slave;
3 providing a first mobile unit adapted to function as a master;
4 providing a second mobile unit adapted to function as a master;
5 said first and second mobile units adapted to alternately function as a system
6 slave when the other of said first or second mobile units has an active connection
7 with said base station.

1 14. A method in accordance with claim 13, said first and second mobile
2 units adapted to send polling signals to said base station when functioning as
3 masters.

1 15. A method in accordance with claim 14, said base station adapted to
2 respond to said polling signals by sending signals directing said first or second
3 mobile units to adjust their poll timing.

1 16. A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein said alternately
2 functioning as slaves comprises turning off polling functionality while said active
3 connection is ongoing.

1 17. A method in accordance with claim 16, wherein said base station is
2 adapted to respond to said polling signals by sending signals directing one of said
3 first or second mobile units to turn off said polling functionality.

1 18. A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein a mobile station that
2 has turned off said polling functionality is adapted to turn said polling functionality
3 back on responsive to commands from said other of said first or second mobile
4 units.

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